



The Token Hunter

N.U.T.S.

National Utah Token Society

Dedicated to the collecting, recording and preserving of Utah's historical medals, tokens, coins and bottles

President's Message



Hello all! Thanks to everyone for making last month's picnic a great event. I hope everyone enjoyed the night as much as I did. This month, we will be having a "BOURSE

NIGHT". For those unfamiliar with the term, BOURSE translates loosely as "an exchange". This is an opportunity for everyone to bring in tokens, coins, bottles, marbles, medals, etc... to sell, barter, and trade amongst the club. It's also a great chance for a little show and tell between club members. Our meeting will be on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 pm in the auditorium rather than our regular meeting room. We will have extra tables to display your items. As a reminder, the September find of the month contest is open to August and September finds due to no contest being held last month. As always, the raffle promises to be a good one. I know Todd and Cliff have been working hard to procure some great items! Hopefully the cooler days of fall are providing everyone an opportunity to get out and get some hunting in! This can be a great time of year to get out and hunt ghost towns and plowed fields. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting! Mike.



Kathy & Sue



Todd, Elvin & Anthony



N.U.T.S!

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Don't forget about the drawing we will
have lots of great prizes



Don't forget about the
drawing we will have lots of
great prizes including coins,
tokens and **GOLD!**

Finds of the month so bring your
treasures in that you have found this
month

**Please bring in
any Library books
that you have
checked out**

**Remember its Bours
Night bring in treasures to
Trade or sale**

Miscellaneous club news

Club Barbeque

September 27th @ 6:00 PM

Columbus Community Center

2530 So. 400 E.



Finds of the Month Winners

A cowboy remembered as Hershell Hill, was herding livestock between Fillmore and Sevier Dry Lake on the Black Rock Desert when he became lost in a blinding sandstorm. While leading his horse somewhere near the north end of the low Cricket Hills, he stumbled and fell, losing his horse.

Stumbling and crawling through the black volcanic dust, he almost choked to death. Then he unexpectedly found shelter in a cave-like opening in a rocky ledge which stood about ten feet above the desert floor. Gratefully, he crawled deeper into the cool cave and rested.

When his eyes became accustomed to the dim light, Hill began exploring his refuge, mainly looking for snakes. Along one wall he tripped over an ancient leather pack sack, nearly buried in fine sand and dust. The brittle leather, black, and hardened with age, broke into fragments as he tried to lift it. As it crumbled, Hill stared in amazement as a stream of tiny grain-sized gold flakes spilled on the cave floor.

When he finally realized the enormity of his find, Hill scooped up the small, but heavy, flakes. He dug deeper uncovering other leather packs filled with the same flake-like gold. Under the packs he found a pile of crude metal bars. He couldn't examine them closely, for they were too heavy to lift.

When the furious wind finally lessened Hill searched for his horse, but the storm had erased every track, where no living thing could be seen. After filling his pockets with as much gold as he could carry, he began walking south-east. In the haze of early evening he could see the outline of Black Rock Volcano, a landmark he knew was only a few miles south of Fillmore.

Walking all night, he slowly made his way toward the thriving Mormon settlement which had once been the state capital. He later estimated the distance was about 30 miles, but his route wasn't straight.

Much of Hills gold spilled from his pockets as he climbed over rock ledges or slipped down steep washes. But after reaching town he still sold enough to a merchant to equal several years wages herding Livestock. The merchant paid Hill only part of the gold's actual value, then sold it to an assayer. Since the Black Rock Desert wasn't known to contain minerals, the assayer felt the gold had been mined many years before by Spanish miners from placers farther north. Then for some unknown reason it had been cached where Hill found it.

Hill thought he knew the desert well enough to go straight back to the low rock ledge. However, each wind storm changed the deserts face, covering some landmarks and revealing others. Several weeks of wandering passed before Hill reasoned that if he could see Black Rock Volcano from the ledge, he should be able to see the ledge from the volcano. With great effort he climbed over loose lava rock to the craters rim, but nowhere in the dancing heat waves could he see any sign of the lost ledge.

Each time Hill rode the wild desert country after that, he watched for the low ledge but never found it again.

However, gold was found in the same area by another sheepherder.

During the early 1930s, a Basque sheepherder remembered only as Pedro, brought a small, heavy bag of grain-sized gold nuggets into the mining camp of Eureka, in Utah's East Tintic Mountains north of the Sevier Desert. He purchased new clothes and a fancy saddle and still had enough money left to finance a week-long drunk for himself and his newly acquired friends, which was half of the town.

Pedro made no secret that he found the gold far out in the desert. Not only was there a pile of tiny nuggets, but also bars of gold too heavy to carry, he related.

One day his new friends sobered up to find the sheepherder gone, but his story wasn't soon forgotten. Years passed, and then in 1938, in the town of Delta, Pedro reappeared and sold 20 pounds of the same grain-like gold to Dr. J. E. Strains, a dentist. The only information he volunteered was that he found the gold while herding sheep. Pedro took his money, reportedly \$4,000, or half what the gold was worth, left town and was never seen again.

September 2012



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